

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A method for producing an optical compensating sheet, comprising a step of simultaneously coating at least two coating solutions on a transparent support, wherein at least one of the coating solutions simultaneously coated in said step contains a liquid crystalline compound, and another coating solution of the coating solutions contains a surface active agent.

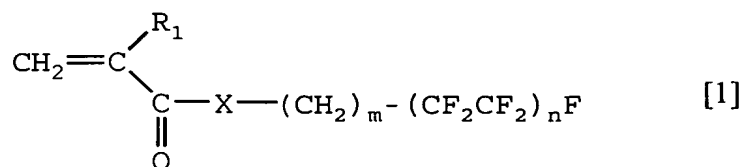
Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface active agent is a fluorine-containing surface active agent.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the surface active agent is a fluorine-containing copolymer.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the surface active agent is a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer containing a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (i) and a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (ii):

(i) a fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by the following formula [1], and

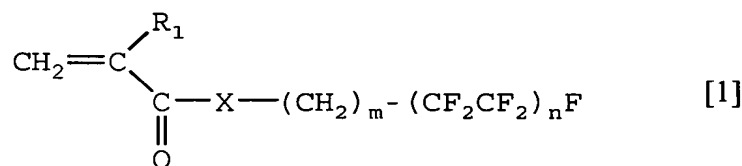
- (ii) a poly(oxyalkylene) acrylate and/or a poly(oxyalkylene) methacrylate:



wherein R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -N(R₂)-, m represents an integer of 1 to 6, n represents an integer of 2 to 4, and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

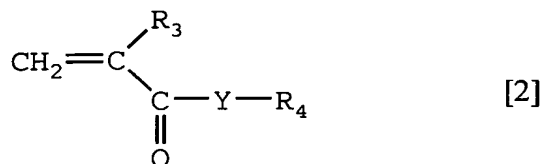
Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the surface active agent is a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer containing a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (i), a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (ii) and a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (iii):

- (i) a fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by the following formula [1]:



wherein R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -N(R₂)-, m represents an integer of 1 to 6, n represents an integer of 2 to 4, and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

- (ii) a poly(oxyalkylene) acrylate and/or a poly(oxyalkylene) methacrylate, and
 (iii) a monomer copolymerizable with (i) and (ii) and represented by the following formula [2]:



wherein R₃ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, Y represents a divalent linking group, and R₄ represents a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent.

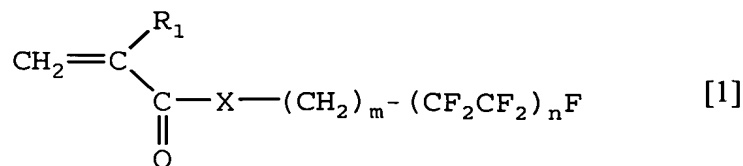
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An optical compensating sheet produced by ~~the~~ a method described in claim 1 comprising a step of simultaneously coating at least two coating solutions on a transparent support, wherein the optical compensating sheet comprises:

an optically anisotropic layer formed from a first coating solution which comprises a liquid crystalline compound, and a second coating solution which comprises a surface active agent, wherein the second coating solution forms a surfactant layer constituting an upper layer of the optically anisotropic layer.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An optical film comprising a support having thereon an optically anisotropic layer comprising a liquid crystalline compound and a surfactant layer comprising a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer, wherein said ~~optically anisotropic layer comprises a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer containing~~ comprises a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (i) and a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (ii):

(i) a fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by the following formula [1], and

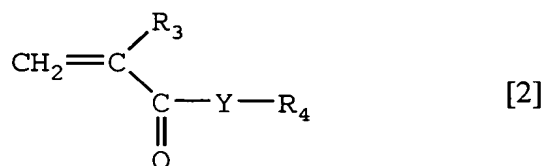
(ii) a poly(oxyalkylene) acrylate and/or a poly(oxyalkylene) methacrylate:



wherein R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -N(R₂)-, m represents an integer of 1 to 6, n represents an integer of 2 to 4, and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and
wherein the surfactant layer constitutes an upper layer of the optically anisotropic layer.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The optical film as claimed in claim 7, wherein said optically anisotropic layer comprises a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer containing a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (i), a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (ii) and a repeating unit derived from the following monomer (iii):

- (i) a fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by formula [1],
- (ii) a poly(oxyalkylene) acrylate and/or a poly(oxyalkylene) methacrylate, and
- (iii) a monomer copolymerizable with (i) and (ii) and represented by the following formula [2]:



wherein R₃ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, Y represents a divalent linking group, and R₄ represents a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The optical film as claimed in claim 7, wherein said liquid crystalline compound is a discotic compound.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A polarizing plate comprising the optical compensating sheet claimed in claim 6.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device comprising the optical compensating sheet claimed in claim 6.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A polarizing plate comprising a polarizing film and protective films disposed on both sides of the polarizing film, wherein one of the protective films is an optical compensating sheet having an optically anisotropic layer comprising a liquid crystalline compound, and said optical compensating sheet is the optical compensating sheet claimed in claim 6.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal cell and two polarizing plates disposed on both sides of the liquid crystal cell, wherein at least one of the polarizing plates is the polarizing plate claimed in claim 10.

Claim 14 (Original): The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the liquid crystal cell is a TN-mode, bend alignment-mode or vertical alignment-mode liquid crystal cell.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal cell and two polarizing plates disposed on both sides of the liquid crystal cell, wherein at least one of the polarizing plates is the polarizing plate claimed in claim 12.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the liquid crystal cell is a TN-mode, bend alignment-mode or vertical alignment-mode liquid crystal cell.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A polarizing plate comprising the optical film claimed in claim 7.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device comprising the optical compensating sheet claimed in claim 7.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal cell and two polarizing plates disposed on both sides of the liquid crystal cell, wherein at least one of the polarizing plates is the polarizing plate claimed in claim 17.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the liquid crystal cell is a TN-mode, bend alignment-mode or vertical alignment-mode liquid crystal cell.

Claim 21 (New): The optical compensating sheet as claimed in claim 6, wherein the viscosity of the second coating solution is lower than the viscosity of the first coating solution.

Claim 22 (New): The optical film as claimed in claim 7, wherein the viscosity of a first coating solution containing the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer is lower than the viscosity of a second coating solution containing the liquid crystalline compound.